

THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Business Resources Division  
301 South Park Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620

Contact: Karyl Tobel, Section Manager  
Commerce Loan Fund  
406-841-2733

For Immediate Release

**COMMERCE AWARDS \$2,592,000 TO  
MONTANA COMMUNITIES**

Ten Montana Businesses to Receive State Funding

Helena, MT – August 18, 2006 – Anthony J. Preite, Director, Montana Department of Commerce announced that nine Montana communities will receive funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Economic Development Program and Economic Development Administration/CDBG Revolving Loan Fund, to assist ten local businesses with jobs. The following communities and businesses will receive assistance: Stillwater County for Stillwater County Healthcare - \$300,000 grant for hospital expansion;

Lake County for S&K Electronics - \$293,000 for employee training grant and working capital loan;

Lake County for Kimir Seatpost, LLC - \$95,000 for a working capital loan;

City of Lewistown for Community, Counseling and Correctional Services, Inc. - \$374,000 grant for water and sewer extensions and employee training;

City of Columbia Falls for Creative Sales - \$225,000 for a working capital loan;

City of Kalispell for Distinctive Countertops - \$400,000 for a working capital loan;

Ravalli County for GlaxoSmithKline - \$400,000 for an employee training grant;

Missoula County for DirectTV Group, Inc. - \$400,000 grant for building purchase;

Richland County for Greenway Dairy - \$105,000 for debt refinancing.

Funding commitments from the Commerce Loan Fund will attract over \$74 million in additional private and public investments for these businesses. A minimum of 1,037 jobs will be retained or created as a result of these awards.

Governor Schweitzer supports assistance to Montana's growing businesses. "Investment in our communities will allow Montana's businesses to grow and thrive," said Governor Schweitzer. "Keeping jobs in Montana keeps our talent at home, and secures our future."

The Commerce Loan Fund includes support from the Community Development Block Grant Program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Economic Development Administration.